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TEN CENTS A WEEK

STATES SHOULD BE PREPARED FOR THE CANAL

Of Highest Importance That Country be Ready When Great Project Is Finished.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.—In an address before the Southern Commercial Congress, John Barrett, Director of the International Bureau of American Republics, said, in part:

"It is of the highest importance to the South but to the whole country that we should begin to get ready for the Panama Canal. We are now actually confronted with a danger to our commerce and prestige abroad—namely, that we cannot complete the canal only to find that other countries will gain greater benefits from it than will the United States. The one great thing, therefore, that our people and Congress now should do is to set in motion such activities and policies as will place the end in readiness to enjoy, and from the new routes and facilities provided by the canal. It will almost criminal lack of foresight to spend four hundred millions of dollars digging this waterway and then when at its completion to find that we are not in a position to utilize fully its much discussed advantages.

There are twenty-one States of the United States bordering on the high seas and the great ports from which vessels ought to steam through the Panama Canal, and hardly one of them realizes the opportunities which the canal offers, and its completion only five years ago. There should be started a 'Get Ready for the Canal' campaign to be heard all along the Atlantic and Pacific coasts and to organize a national movement to prepare for it in a way that will be both effective and practical. Every city and commercial center having any interest in foreign commerce should act in the parts of the world to be reached by the canal. Every section of the country—especially the South—should familiarize itself, for instance, with the great West or Pacific States of South and Central America and the possible wants and resources of those countries. Conditions of demand and capacity to sell what is desired, purchase what is for sale, starting new industries, conservation of resources, improvement of coast harbors, interior waterways, betterment of shipping facilities, the sending of agents abroad, study of the foreign language, travel among these distant but future close neighbors, and acquaintance with their social and racial characteristics, all have a direct and important bearing on 'getting ready for the canal.'

The Southern States abutting on the Gulf and Atlantic coasts and the States back of them have great and rich commercial opportunities before them in Latin America and touching upon the vast East and South America, which in-

cludes the mighty areas of Brazil and Argentina and of other countries, let us bear in mind that there reaches directly south from Panama to Patagonia a Pacific Coast Line of five thousand miles, in the very infancy of its development, blessed with a marvelous variety of resources and climate, and one which, though comparatively isolated, is already conducting a foreign trade valued at three hundred millions of dollars per annum. In other words, the five republics of Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, and Chile, practically debouching on the Pacific, bought and sold in one year products equal in value to two-thirds of the entire cost of the canal. If a trade of such volume can be maintained without the canal, it is difficult to predict its valuation a few years after the canal is completed.

"Northwest from Panama is the Pacific Coast line of Central America and Mexico, with a reach of nearly three thousand miles, which will be put into direct and ultimate touch with the South when the canal is opened. This coast line from Panama to San Diego now carries on a foreign trade valued at approximately one hundred millions of dollars; it is hard to prophesy what total this will become a few years after the isthmian waterway is done.

"Speaking of all Latin America and what it offers to the South, I would have every chamber of commerce or board of trade from the Roanoke to the Rio Grande organize committees or subordinate clubs to awaken interest in everything pertaining to Latin America, to its history and development, its commerce and industries, its people, institutions and government, and then to study methods of building up exchange of trade with all parts of our sister republics and of taking advantage in a practical way of the great canal. I wish we could start a Pan-American League with branches in every important city and town of the South and supported by the best citizens of each community. Good results would surely follow both for our trade and for our influence. Such a movement—a tangible evidence to all Latin America of our growing interest in our sister republics—would accomplish wonderful results in removing any distrust and suspicion which is often described as existing among the masses of people from Mexico and Cuba south to Argentina and Chile.

"If now we can actually start a bonafide Pan-American movement in the South and popularize the cry: 'Get Ready for the Panama Canal,' we will astonish ourselves and the world with the good accomplished and develop a unanimity of sentiment in favor of a suitable celebration in 1915 which will appropriately make

THE CENSUS REPORT SENDS COTTON UP

PRICES REACH NEW HIGH LEVELS FOR SEASON.

Buying Orders From All Parts of Country—Sixteen Cent Cotton Expected in Two Weeks.

NEW YORK, Dec. 9.—The report of the census bureau showing only 8,878,277 bales of cotton ginned to December 1, comparing with 11,008,661 to the same date last season, was followed by increased activity and considerable excitement in the cotton market yesterday morning with May contracts selling up to 15.39, or 17 points above the closing figures of Tuesday night, and at a new high record for the season.

Heavy realizing, attributed to some of the leading bulls, caused slight recessions during the morning, but there was a great volume of outside buying and the market showed a very firm tone with bulls claiming that the census figures indicated a Government estimate of under 10,250,000 bales. The commercial crop last year was in the neighborhood of 13,800,000 bales.

The market became even more active later in the day with buying orders reaching the ring from all directions while it looked as though some of the larger of the old bulls were replacing cotton which they had sold below 15 cents in expectation of 16 cents before Christmas. May contracts sold at 15.50, or \$1.40 per bale above the closing bid of Tuesday night, while August advanced to 14.95, or \$2.40 a bale. The close was steady with the general market showing a gain for the day of from 14 to 43 points.

TAFT SHOWS CLEMENCY TO CONVICTED BANKER.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.—The President yesterday pardoned Frederick R. Green, former cashier of the Fredonia, N. Y., National Bank, who has served all except about nine months of a six years' sentence for making false entries. The case was unusual in that the President did not wait for a recommendation for pardon from the department of justice, the usual channel for such matters. Vice-President Sherman and several other prominent men recommended the pardon. It was represented that Green had been guilty of no personal dishonesty and that the bank was insolvent and he became responsible for it. Green has been offered a responsible position in Kansas City, Kas.

WOMAN SUFFERED YEARS WITH SPONGE IN BODY.

MILWAUKEE, Wis., Dec. 9.—After suffering four years with a surgeon's sponge sewed up in her body, Mrs. John H. Fertig, of this city, died yesterday.

Four years ago Mrs. Fertig was operated upon for a tumor. The physicians forgot to remove a sponge from the wound. Another operation, performed in an effort to find the sponge, failed.

One year later portions of the sponge worked out through Mrs. Fertig's side. A third operation located the sponge, which was found hardened and imbedded in the woman's abdomen. This operation proved fatal.

the opening of the canal a far-reaching and historical national and international event."

The gold produced by the mines of the United States last year was valued at \$94,560,000 or just about the value of the confectionery and candy the nation consumed.

MAN AT DEATH'S DOOR INDICTED FOR LARCENY

Alleged That George P. Sheldon Misappropriated Funds of Insurance Company.

NEW YORK, Dec. 9.—George Preston Sheldon, deposed president of the Phenix (Fire) Insurance Company of Brooklyn, lying at death's door at his Greenwich, Conn., home, was indicted for larceny in the first degree by the grand jury in New York yesterday for alleged misappropriation of funds of the company of which he was the head for twenty-two years.

As Sheldon was not arrested and probably will not be unless his health improves radically, the text of the indictment was not made public, but an official of the district attorney's office is authority for the statement that the amount which Sheldon is accused of stealing is \$45,000.

According to this official, Sheldon, it was testified before the grand jury, used the funds or credit of the insurance company in stock market transactions through a New York brokerage firm and pocketed the profits.

The grand jury will now investigate the connection of others with alleged speculation with the funds of the company.

Only charges against Sheldon have

been examined as yet, although the report of the Insurance Department implicated others.

In the meantime detectives will be sent to Greenwich to inquire into the condition of the accused man's health. If they are satisfied that he is too ill for trial, no attempt at extradition will be made, but he will be kept under close surveillance. His condition last night, as reported from Greenwich, was critical.

Four exhibits of interest which have figured in the grand jury investigations so far are three drafts for \$10,000 each and one of \$15,000, alleged profits of speculation which Sheldon is accused of having carried on. Each of these drafts is made the subject of a count in the indictment.

Sheldon is 64 years old, and widely known in insurance circles. He was taken ill with ptomaine poisoning six weeks ago, before he was deposed as president of the insurance company.

Buy of those merchants who advertise in The Sun.

ROME MAN FASTED TWENTY-THREE DAYS.

ROME, Ga., December 9.—After fasting for 23 days, declaring all the time that he would not allow a morsel of food to pass his lips, William Tiplin, a wealthy manufacturer of Rome, has begun to eat again. He affirmed that this would not happen until God spoke to him and gave him an appetite, but unknown to him, his family put the albumen from eggs in the water he drank. When he learned of this deception he declared it was no use to keep on fasting and began to eat. He is gaining strength rapidly, and his physicians hope for his recovery, though he is suffering from tuberculosis.

SENTENCED TO DEATH HE KILLED HIMSELF.

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Dec. 9.—Frank Grimes, colored, who killed Blanche McKnight, with whom he was in love, hanged himself in his cell in the county jail some time Tuesday night, and his body was found Wednesday morning. He had been sentenced Tuesday to die in the electric chair on March 27.

Work still continues in Orlando for good roads. The north end of Orange avenue is being put in better condition. The entire street from the Catholic church to the standpipe has been plowed and graded and is now being rolled with the heavy steam roller.

Salt Is More Expensive As Result of New Tariff

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.—Salt, along with nearly every other necessity of life, has become more expensive as a result of the Aldrich-Payne-Smoot bill. Dealers are being notified that on coarse grades prices have been increased from 75 cents to \$1.25 a ton, while table and dairy grades are advanced from \$2 to \$2.25 a ton.

The approximate consumption of salt in the United States is 2,500,000 tons each year, so that if the average increase is but 50 cents a ton the trust will add \$1,250,000 to its annual profits.

A stubborn fight was made by the Democrats during the revision of the tariff at the special session for free salt, and when it was seen that was impossible, it was hoped a substantial downward revision on that schedule might be secured.

Thomas Jefferson recommended, in one of his messages to Congress, "the suppression of the duties on salt," a large portion of which duty is exhausted by the heavy expense of measuring salt.

"Salt is a necessity of life and should be as free from tax as air or water," declared Robert J. Walker, whose report on tariff and financial conditions, made while secretary of the treasury in 1845, is regarded as

containing the best tariff philosophy uttered before or since.

"Salt is used in large quantities by the farmer and planter," said Walker, "and to the poor this tax operates most oppressively, not only in the use of the article itself, but as combined with salted provisions. The salt made abroad by solar evaporation is also most pure and wholesome and as conservative of health should be exempt from taxation."

In his speech upon the tariff bill Champ Clark of Missouri declared he was not opposed to a revenue duty upon any article, save salt. "One of the greatest men that ever sat in the Senate was Thomas H. Benton," said Clark. "He fought for 26 years to have salt upon the free list. He succeeded, and President Roosevelt said he deserved the greatest credit for doing it. When Benton got salt on the free list, he said in his pompous way that he imagined he could hear the flocks and herds on a thousand hills bellowing out their love and gratitude to him for it, and they would have done it had they known what he had done for them."

The Aldrich-Payne-Smoot tariff tax on salt in bags, sacks and barrels, is 11 cents per 100 pounds, and on salt in bulk 7 cents per 100 pounds.

Murdered Child-Wife, Then Committed Suicide

HARTSBURG, W. Va., Dec. 9.—A young farmer, Charles Cromwell, killed his child wife, aged 14, and then killed himself with the same gun. The couple had been married three months.

Four days ago Mrs. Cromwell charged the husband with the theft of her dress, which she claimed was hers. Yesterday morning the husband induced his wife to accompany him across a field. Arriving at a point where he had secreted a shot gun, Cromwell secured possession of it, and emptied both barrels into the girl's body. The first shot almost completely tore away the head of Mrs. Cromwell. The husband reloaded the gun, and shot himself in the breast, dying soon afterward.